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To: County and District Superintendents
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From: William L. Padia, Director
Policy and Evaluation Division

Subject: Release of the Final 2000-2001 Academic Performance Index (API) Growth Reports

Ref. No.: PED-EPIC-01-13

On December 14, 2001 the California Department of Education (CDE) will release the final 2000-2001 Academic Performance Index (API) Growth Reports to the **public** via the Internet. This release will include reports for several hundred additional schools that were not part of the October release. The CDE had withheld reports for these schools to give districts an opportunity to submit corrections to Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) 2001 data through Harcourt Educational Measurement, the test publisher. **For the vast majority of schools, the data that will be reported are identical to the October 15 release.**

Release Schedule for the Final Growth Reports

In order to provide you with the opportunity to review your data **prior** to the public release, we are notifying you in advance that we will **post the final 2000-2001 API Growth Reports on December 12 (by noon)** on our API web site at:

<<http://api.cde.ca.gov>>

We will notify the media and the public that the Growth Reports will be available by December 14 at this Internet site.

New Title 5 Regulations for the Final Growth Reports

At its November 2001 meeting, the State Board of Education adopted revised regulations related to award programs linked to the API. California Code of Regulations, Title 5, Section 1032 (d) revises circumstances under which a school's API would be considered valid or invalid. Section 1032 (d)(1) revises the requirements related to adult testing irregularities. Under this section, a school's API would be valid if there were adult testing irregularities at the school affecting less than 5 percent of the pupils

tested on the 2001 STAR. However, such a school would still be ineligible for an award until the following school year. As a result of this change in the regulations, a number of additional schools will receive Growth Reports because their API is valid; however, these schools will not be eligible for awards until the 2002-2003 school year (based on growth from the 2001 Base API to the 2002 Growth API).

Section 1032 (d)(4) of the regulations revises the requirements for parent waivers related to the 2001 API. The regulations specify that a school's API shall be considered invalid if its proportion of students excused at parent request compared to its 2001 Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR) program enrollment on the first day of testing is equal to or greater than 10 percent. When the school's proportion of parental waivers compared to its STAR enrollment is equal to or greater than 10 percent but less than 20 percent, the CDE will conduct standard statistical tests to determine whether the pupils tested at the school represent the school's enrollment on the first day of testing. If the school's tested population represents the school population as a whole, the school's API will be considered valid. If not, the school's API will be considered invalid. In no case will a school's API be valid if its proportion of parental waivers is 20 percent or greater. Because the October reports withheld an API for any school with a proportion of 10 percent or more, a number of schools will receive Growth Reports because they passed the standard statistical tests related to parent waivers.

Format of the Final Growth Reports

The format of the final School Growth Reports is identical to the October Reports. The format of the final District List of Schools is identical to the October reports with the following exception:

- **As a result of action by the State Board of Education, the *List of Schools—District Level* now includes a *District API Summary*.** The summary shows the number and percent of all schools in a district that met targets, had API growth but did not meet targets, or had the same or declining API and did not meet targets. The information is also provided for schools in decile 1 or 2 on the 2000 Base API. Only schools with a valid 2000 Base API and a valid 2001 Growth API are included in the district summary.

More Information

Consult the PSAA web site at <<http://www.cde.ca.gov/psaa>> for updated information about the API, awards programs, alternative accountability, and other provisions of the PSAA. If you have questions about the final 2000-2001 Growth Reports, please contact the Educational Planning and Information Center (EPIC) at epic@cde.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 657-2273. If you have questions about API awards, please contact the Awards Unit at awards@cde.ca.gov or by phone at (916) 657-3810.

cc: Accountability Coordinators